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Gross Point

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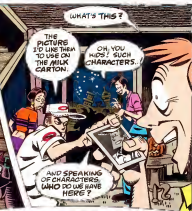
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--THAT IS...

...IF YOU DARE ENTER THE DUCK OF MYSTERY



WELL, COME ON IN! YOU CAN TRUST ME -- WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR, A FORMAL INTRO-DUCK-TION? AND I DO MEAN DUCK.

AH, KIDS TODAY...!

ADULTS TOMORROW! MAGGOT FOOD THE DAY AFTER! WHERE WILL IT ALL END?



COME ON IN AND TAKE A SEAT. BOB, YOU CAN CHIL UP IN FRONT OF THE FIRE.

SO...I'LL BET YOU LITTLE SHYBODIES ARE ALL WONDERING WHAT TODAY'S PRIZE IS.



WELL, IT'S QUITE A SCARY TALE, IF I DO SAY SO MYSELF...

I'D RATHER HAVE CANDY!

SO WOULD I. I'D EVEN SETTLE FOR HER SISTER, BUT THAT'S ANOTHER STORY. AND SPEAKING OF STORIES...

...IT'S TIME TO MEET AN UNSCRUPULOUS TRAVELING SALESMAN BY THE NAME OF **BIFF BRISKETTI**! BIFF WOULD GO DOOR-TO-DOOR ALL OVER THE COUNTRYSIDE, CONNING POOR HICKS INTO **BUYING HIS SNODDY MERCHANDISE!** HE WAS A COCKY MAN WHO THOUGHT HE HAD ALL THE ANGLES COVERED. BUT EVERY SO OFTEN, PEOPLE LIKE BIFF **GET WHAT'S COMING TO THEM** -- AND HOW BIFF GOT **HIS** IS THE REASON OUR STORY IS CALLED...

DINNER FOR ONE



"YOU SEE, **BIFF** DOESN'T SELL POTS AND PANS. NO, **HIS** STOCK IN TRADE WAS **ARTIFICIAL ORGANS!** AND HERE'S THE PART OF HIS SALES PITCH THAT HIS VICTIMS ALWAYS LOVED: NOT ONLY WERE HIS **ARTIFICIAL** PARTS SUPPOSED TO BE **STRONGER** AND **MORE DURABLE** THAN THEIR **ORGANIC** COUNTERPARTS, BUT THEY CAME WITH **FREE INSTALLATION!**"



"**PROVIDED**, OF COURSE, THE CUSTOMER **SURVIVED** THE **REMOVAL** OF THE ORGAN BEING **REPLACED.**"

WHATT? --CHOKI!--
NO PAYOFF?! WHY
--SOB!--NOT?!

THERE'S NOTHING I
CAN DO. AFTER ALL,
THE HEART ONLY
HAD A **LIFETIME**
GUARANTEE...



...WHICH IS NOW **NULL**
AND **VOID** BECAUSE YOUR
HUBBY IS ...WELL...**DEAD.**

"AND SO, ONE FATEFUL NIGHT, WHILE DRIVING HIS VAN OVER A REMOTE MOUNTAIN PASS, BIFF FAILED TO NOTICE A DUCK CROSSING SIGN!



"SKIDDING TO AVOID A FAMILY OF DUCKS, HE CRASHED INTO A DEEP RAVINE!



"BIFF SURVIVED THE WRECK...BUT, UNFORTUNATELY FOR HIM, NEITHER HIS VAN NOR HIS CELL PHONE COULD SAY THE SAME. UNABLE TO CALL FOR HELP, HE WAS STRANDED DOWN THERE FOR WEEKS!



"AS THE DAYS PASSED, WHAT LITTLE SCRAPS OF FOOD HE HAD SOON RAN OUT! IT SEEMED THAT DEATH BY STARVATION WAS INEVITABLE!

"SOON, HALF-MAD AND DELIRIOUS FROM HUNGER, HE BEGAN TO FANTASIZE ABOUT THE ARTIFICIAL ORGANS! AFTER ALL, HE WAS SOOOO HUNGRY...! HE WISHED THAT THE ARTIFICIAL LIVER WERE REAL..."

"...WOULDN'T MIND --MUMBLE-- ...SOME LIVER... RIGHT ABOUT NOW..."

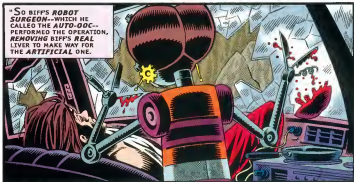


DO YOU WISH TO HAVE --KLEK, BUZZ-- THE ARTIFICIAL LIVER INSTALLED, AFTER REMOVING THE CURRENT MODEL?



NHM. WELL...I REALLY AM HUNGRY..."

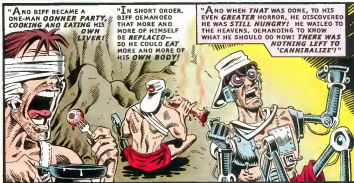
"SO BIFF'S ROBOT SURGEON--WHICH HE CALLED THE AUTO-OOC-- PERFORMED THE OPERATION, REMOVING BIFF'S REAL LIVER TO MAKE WAY FOR THE ARTIFICIAL ONE.



"AND BIFF BECAME A ONE-MAN GONNER PARTY, COOKING AND EATING HIS OWN LIVER!

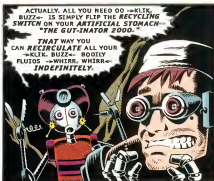
"IN SHORT ORDER, BIFF DEMANDED THAT MORE AND MORE OF HIMSELF BE REPLACED--SO HE COULD EAT MORE AND MORE OF HIS OWN BODY!

"AND WHEN THAT WAS DONE, TO HIS EVEN GREATER HORROR, HE DISCOVERED HE WAS STILL HUNGRY! HE WAILED TO THE HEAVENS, DEMANDING TO KNOW WHAT HE SHOULD DO NOW! THERE WAS NOTHING LEFT TO 'CANNIBALIZE'!"



ACTUALLY, ALL YOU NEED DO -->KLIK, BUZZ< IS SIMPLY FLIP THE RECYCLING SWITCH ON YOUR ARTIFICIAL STOMACH-- "THE GUT-INATOR 2000."

THAT WAY YOU CAN RECIRCULATE ALL YOUR -->KLIK, BUZZ< BOOTLY FLUIDS -->WHIRR, WHIRR< INDEFINITELY.



"AND THAT WAS WHEN BIFF REALIZED THAT HE COULD HAVE DONE THAT FROM DAY ONE! HE DIDN'T HAVE TO EAT HIMSELF UP. IF ONLY HE'D SIMPLY REPLACED HIS STOMACH FIRST...!



"IT WAS ENOUGH TO MAKE ANY MAN CRAZY..."

"AND BIFF WAS NO EXCEPTION."



"DAYS LATER, A RESCUE TEAM FINALLY ARRIVED. THEY LOWERED THEMSELVES INTO THE CREVASSE WITH MOUNTAIN-CLIMBING ROVES AND GEAR..."

"...TO FIND THE CRAZED SEMI-ARTIFICIAL BIFF AMID BITS AND PIECES OF SHATTERED ARTIFICIAL BODY PARTS..."



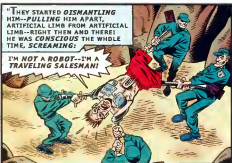
"...AS WELL AS THE PHYSICAL REMAINS OF BIFF'S OLD BODY, THEY JUMPED TO THE WRONG CONCLUSION:"

"THEY BELIEVED THAT BIFF WAS THE AUTO-DOC...AND THAT THE AUTO-DOC HAD MALFUNCTIONED IN THE CRASH AND KILLED ITS OWNER--BIFF!"



"THEY STARTED DISMANTLING HIM--PULLING HIM APART, ARTIFICIAL LIMB FROM ARTIFICIAL LIMB--RIGHT THEN AND THERE! HE WAS CONSCIOUS THE WHOLE TIME, SCREAMING:"

"I'M NOT A ROBOT--I'M A TRAVELING SALESMAN!"



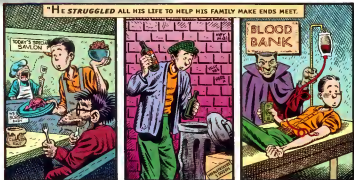
"AND THAT'S WHEN THE LEADER OF THE RESCUE TEAM TURNED TO HIS MEN AND SAID, 'IN THAT CASE, PULL HARDER.'"

"BORRRR-RING!"

"IS THAT IT?!"

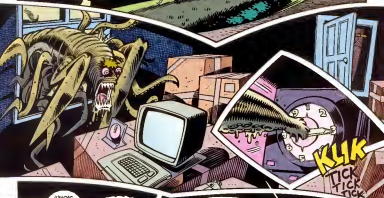
"SO LIKE WHEN'S IT GET SCARY?!"







MYSTERY MEAT



WHO'S THERE?

DAD, IT'S ME.



CARROLL? WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN THERE, SON?

UHHH... LOADING MY CAMERA. HEY, CALL ME MEAT, OKAY, DAD?

I DON'T WANT YOU STAYING UP LATE...

G'NIGHT, DAD...

TICK TICK TICK TICK
DING!

BOY MEAT, GIRL

I'M HOME

OH, GOD
THIS IS GOTTA
STOP.

MATT DAVINE-WRITER
JOE STATION-PENCILLER
ROGER LANCIDGE-INKER
CLEM ROBINS-LETTERER
IAN LAUGHLIN-COLORIST
MARTIN PASKO-EDITOR

MAYBE SOME
PROFESSIONAL
HELP...

BEEP
BIDDIT
DIDDIBIP

REEEE

DR. WEB'S

☐ ?

What seems
to be the
problem? ☐ ☐



AutoTherapy

For Amusement Only

I really like this girl, TERRI. She's really PRETTY.

Except... I don't know HOW this happened or WHY...

...but, ever since school started, every time a pretty girl TOUCHES me, my eyes get BLOODSHOT and pretty soon I'm SEEING RED."

That's when I've got to GET AWAY before I turn into a MONSTER. Sometimes a SLIMY one, sometimes a big HAIRY one...I never know WHAT I'll be!

*GIVE YOURSELF UP FOR ADOPTION IF YOU MISSED GP#3! --MARTY

Got that? REAL MONSTERS. And they're always DIFFERENT every time.

And now I'm moving to COLLIER BLUFF, and going to a DIFFERENT SCHOOL. I'll lose touch with Terri if I don't tell her how I feel SOON.

But if I tell her THAT, I'll have to tell her EVERYTHING.

BRRHM

DR. WEB'S
Autotherapy

For Amusement Only

□ *
□ *
□ *
□ *

SO, MEAT, YOU WANNA STARE AT ME LIKE A DYING CALF IN A HAILSTORM ALL DAY, OR DO WE UNPACK YOU? EITHER'S FINE, BY THE WAY.

ANY DAY I SPEND NOT IN GROSS POINT IS LIKE A REPRIEVE.

YOU'RE LUCKY TO BE MOVING HERE, MEAT.

THANKS FOR LETTING ME BRING YOU ALL THE WAY OUT HERE, TERRI.

I DUNNO. WE SORT OF HAD TO. DAD'S A CAPTAIN NOW, SO THE FORCE WON'T LET HIM LIVE OUT-OF-TOWN.

HERE, I'M GONNA HAVE TO WEAR A UNIFORM TO SCHOOL..

IT'S A SHAME. YOU WERE THE ONLY GUY IN GROSS POINT WHO WASN'T A FREAK..

YOU'RE...UH... TOUCHING ME.

IT IS TOUCHING, I GUESS.

HEY! YOU OKAY? YOUR EYES...!

I'LL BE RIGHT BACK.

OHMYGAWD...
SIGH!!

MIGHT AS WELL GET STARTED..



ONE MISSISSIPPI,
TWO MISSISSIPPI...

FOLKS, THE
CROWD'S TENSE
HERE AT MUNSON RACE-
WAY--AS MIKE "BUNSEN"
MUNSON, THE DARE-
DEVIL OF THE GIFTED
AND TALENTED
TRACK--

--CLIMBS
ONCE AGAIN
INTO HIS
CELEBRATED
"MANHUBAL
FIGHT."

THE QUESTION ON
EVERYBODY'S MIND RIGHT
NOW IS WHETHER BUNCES
NEW GYROSCOPIC STABILIZERS
WILL LET HIM SET A NEW SPEED
RECORD FOR THE CORNER
AT THE END OF THE
DRIVEWAY.

HE'S
OFF! THE
APPROACH
LOOKS
GOOD...!

HE'S DONE
IT! LADIES AND
GENTLEMEN...

SHUSS

HUNBERTN
SEVENTY-EIGHT
MISSISSIPPI... HUNBERTN
SEVENTY-NINE
MISSISSIPPI...

WHERE?

WHUDD

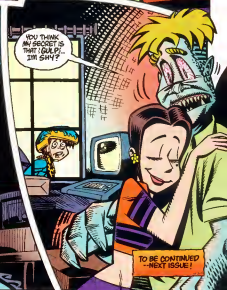
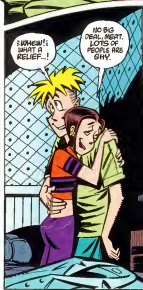
I'M BACK.
DARN THESE AWFUL
ALLERGIES...

YOU'RE SO
CORNNY. THAT WAS
NO ALLERGY!

YOU KNOW?
I MEAN, WHY MY
EYES GET BLOODSHOT
AND--AND--AND EVERY-
THING?

?!

WELL, YEAH,
I MEAN, I WAS
WONDERING WHY
YOU NEVER ASKED
ME OUT. AND WHY
YOU ALWAYS
RAN AWAY...



Gross Point

Scary Suggestions,
and Rude Remarks

DC COMICS
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e-mail:
DCOGROSS@
AOL.COM

TO LOCATE A COMIC SHOP NEAR YOU CALL 1-888-COMIC BOOK

TIME TO TURN THE FLOOR OVER TO A FEW MORE READERS WHO'D LIKE TO WEIGH IN WITH THEIR OPINIONS ON #1. BUT WE'LL HAVE TO DO THAT VERY CAREFULLY...CAUSE IN THIS OFFICE, THE PROBLEM WITH TURNING THE FLOOR OVER IS THAT YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT YOU'LL FIND LURKING UNDER IT!

I JUST READ GROSS POINT #1, AND KUDOS FOR AN EXCELLENT COMIC BOOK. NOT ONLY IS TERRI A SEXY ONE, BUT BRIAN IS ONE OF THE COOLEST GUYS I'VE SEEN IN A COMIC BOOK SINCE GRUNGE FROM GENIUS. WHAT IS UP WITH THE GIANT DUCK?!

ERIC MARTIN
VIA AMERICA ONLINE

TO JUDGE BY OUR NEXT CORRESPONDENT'S OPENING PARAGRAPH, THAT DUCK IS GETTING TO BE AN OBSESSION...

THIS IS TRULY AN ODD-BIRD TITLE, AND THAT'S NOT REFERRING TO THE GIANT DUCK NEXT DOOR TO HOUSE 150. AFTER ONE ISSUE, I'M NOT EXACTLY SURE WHAT TO MAKE OF THIS PECULIAR BLEND OF HORROR AND COMEDY — A TECHNIQUE THAT ALMOST NEVER WORKS, IN MY OPINION. THUS, WHILE I'M NOT FLOORED BY GROSS POINT #1, I AM INTERESTED ENOUGH TO HANG OUT FOR A WHILE AND SEE WHAT HAPPENS. LIKEWISE, I'M INTERESTED ENOUGH TO WRITE THIS LETTER WITH SOME THOUGHTS ON THE BOOK.

THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND

THE UGLY SIDES OF GROSS POINT: IT'S NOT GOOSEBUMPS, AND IT'S NOT CREEPY OR EVEN WEIRD TALES. IT'S SOME BLEND OF THE ARTISTIC STYLE OF '80S INDEPENDENTS WITH THE DARKLY-COMIC OVERTONES OF THE ADDAMS FAMILY MOVIES. BEST OF ALL IS THAT IT STANDS OUT ON ITS OWN, HOWEVER. THERE'S NOTHING IN THE FIRST ISSUE WE HAVEN'T SEEN BEFORE IN ANY OF THE ABOVE WORKS: HOWLING NOISES, CHOUISH GROCERIES, STRANGE LICHTHOUSES AND AN ODD ASSORTMENT OF TOWNSFOLK POPULATING A BIZARRE LITTLE VILLA. HOWEVER, GROSS POINT COULD BE ITS OWN LITTLE MICROCOSM IF THE PROPER ATTENTION AND CARE TO DETAIL IS GIVEN TO THE SERIES LIKE IT DESERVES.

WHEN DC OPENED UP ITS "WEIRDVERSE" LINE, I WAS RATHER SKEPTICAL — COMICS HAVEN'T BEEN A GOOD (MEDIUM) FOR THE HORROR GENRE, MOSTLY BECAUSE LATELY THEY'VE EITHER BEEN LIGHTLY COMIC OR BLOOD-SOAKED AND MISERABLE. GROSS POINT BRIDGES THE GAP BETWEEN THE ANGSTY HORROR POPULATING THIS GENERATION'S ROLE-PLAYING GAMES AND THE CRAZINESS OF '70s (TV) CARTOONS (LIKE) FANG FACE OR DRAC PACK.

THE MOST POSITIVE THING ABOUT THIS FIRST ISSUE IS THE ARTISTS TAKE ON GROSS POINT. I CAN SEE A LOT OF ROOM FOR POTENTIAL IN S.M. JAGGART AND ROGER LANGEORGE'S UNIVERSE HERE. NOTHING SEEMS SET IN STONE. THE GIANT DUCK AND MR. HOVELLE'S CLEAN-CUT APPEARANCE STAND OUT NICELY IN CONTRAST TO CARL

AND THE DeKAYE SISTERS — BOTH WITH THEIR OWN VISION OF JUST WHAT "WEIRD" IS. HOPEFULLY, THE WRITERS WILL FIND THE INSPIRATION CREEPING AROUND THE CORRIDORS OF GROSS POINT AND WON'T RELY SO HEAVILY ON THE ART TO CARRY A FRAGMENTED STORY AS HAPPENS IN THIS ISSUE.

GRANTED, EVERYTHING IN THIS ISSUE IS DESIGNED TO SET THE READER UP FOR FUTURE TALES, (BUT) THERE'S A LOT HERE IN NEED OF DEVELOPMENT. THE MAIN CHARACTERS' NAMES SLIPPED FROM MY MEMORY ABOUT TWO MINUTES AFTER READING THE STORY, AND THERE WASN'T ANYTHING ABOUT THEM EXCEPT THEIR CONNECTION AS TWINS THAT MADE ME SEE THEM AS ANYTHING BUT YOUR AVERAGE HORROR MOVIES 'RAPLESS TEENS' TRAPPED IN A WORLD THEY NEVER MADE. HOWEVER, THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH TAKING THAT PREMISE AND RUNNING WITH IT — IT'S A STAND-BY BECAUSE IT WORKS. I JUST HOPE THAT THE STORYLINE MAKES TERRI AND BRIAN, HOWARD AND CHARMAINE INTO CHARACTERS WHO'RE A LITTLE MORE "FLESHED-OUT." — GIVEN TIME, GROSS POINT HAS THE POTENTIAL TO BE A CULT FAVORITE.

THERE ARE SOME PROBLEMS WITH SOME OF THE OTHER DENIZENS OF GROSS POINT. ONE OF THE TRADEMARK ELEMENTS OF MIXING HORROR AND COMEDY IS USUALLY "PLAYING IT STRAIGHT" — THAT IS, HORROR/COMEDY WORKS BEST WHEN THOSE EXPERIENCING THE HORROR DON'T REALIZE HOW COMICAL THEIR SITUATION IS TO THE AUDIENCE — OR VICE VERSA.

READING ABOUT THE DEKAYE SISTERS GRUMBELING OVER THEIR STATUS AS AN OPPRESSED MINORITY WAS ONE CLICHE PILED ONTO ANOTHER (THE CONJOINED TWINS WHO CAN'T GET ALONG). THE FORTUNE-TELLER WAS ANOTHER EXAMPLE — PLAYING A LITTLE TOO PROFESSIONALLY WITH THE PUN ABOUT RECOGNIZING "TYPE."

I ALSO THINK THERE ARE SOME GREAT STORIES TO BE TOLD THAT ARE RARELY HIT-UPON THIS ISSUE. I'M INTERESTED IN THE SIDE-CHARACTERS WE RARELY SEE — LIKE THE PAPER BOY WITH HIS GIANT BAT, THE BABY DRAGON-THING, MR. HOVELLE, KLEPTO, NINE-FINGERED DAVE, ETC. TITLES LIKE THIS LIVE AND DIE BY RECURRING CHARACTERS, AND CARL WON'T BE ENOUGH ALL BY HIMSELF, BRIGHT SPOT THAT HE IS.

AND THERE ARE BRIGHT SPOTS: CARL IS PROBABLY THE BEST PART OF THIS ENTIRE ISSUE, AND THE MOST REALIZED CHARACTER IN THE BUNCH. I'D LIKE TO SEE MORE OF HIM IN THE FUTURE, AND I EXPECT WE WILL. HOWEVER, I'D HATE TO SEE HIM TURN INTO THE IMPETUS OR CRUX FOR EVERY STORY — I.E., CARL TELLS THE TWINS ABOUT THIS OR THAT AND THEY RUN OFF TO GET INTO MISCHIEF. CARL SHOULDN'T STAY AN ENIGMATIC BEING WITH "ALL THE ANSWERS AND THE STORIES" FOR LONG, AND YOU'LL NEED TO ESTABLISH THIS TITLE'S POTENTIAL FOR CHARM VERY QUICKLY IF YOU'RE GOING TO GET THE SALES NECESSARY IN A MARKET FLOODED WITH CLONES OF CLONES AND PEOPLE TURNING BLUE AT THE DROP OF THE BAT. WHAT — YOU MEAN YOU DON'T THINK THAT'S WEIRD?

DEN ELMS
BEAVERTON, OR

FRANKLY, DEN, WERE A LITTLE SURPRISED BY YOUR REACTION BECAUSE WE'D HOPED — ESPECIALLY AFTER THE GAG-DISCLAIMER ON PAGE 1 — THAT IT WAS CLEAR THAT WHAT WE'RE TRYING TO DO IS NOT MERELY CREATE BLACK COMEDY (MORE SPECIFICALLY, BLACK FARCE), BUT SPOOF THE ENTIRE GENRE OF YA HORROR — THE EXACT SAME KIND OF ENTERTAINMENT THAT YOU CITE BY WAY OF COMPARISON! IF BRIAN AND TERRI SEEM A BIT LIKE CLICHES, THEY'RE DELIBERATELY SO, BECAUSE THE NEW-KIDS-IN-TOWN-WHO-ARE-FISH-OUT-OF-WATER (THERE'S ANOTHER ONE OF THOSE PESKY CLICHES), TRAPPED-IN-A-STRANGE-PLACE-WHERE-EVERYONE-TREATS-THEM-LIKE-THE-BOY-CRYING-WOLF-WHEN-THEY-REPORT-A-WEIRD-PHENOMENON IS ALREADY A CLICHE IN THE YA HORROR GENRE. IF YOU START TRYING TO COUNT UP HOW MANY TV SHOWS OR YA NOVELS SPRING FROM THAT SET-UP, YOU'LL FIND IT'S A PRETTY BIG NUMBER. YOUR POINTS ABOUT CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT ARE WELL-TAKEN, BUT SO IS YOUR OBSERVATION THAT THIS WAS, AFTER ALL, ONLY THE FIRST ISSUE. BY NOW, WE TRUST YOU'VE SEEN ENOUGH OF HOW **GROSS POINT** IS SHAPING UP TO KNOW THAT WE ARE INDEED... WELL... PLUNGING EVERY DEPTH IMAGINABLE.

▶
NOW FORGIVE US IF YOU'VE HEARD THIS ONE BEFORE, BUT... IF YOU MISSED OUR PREVIOUS ISSUES, YOU CAN PROBABLY FIND 'EM @ NEWS, USED, HALF-DEVoured, OR HAUNTED — AT YOUR NEAREST

COMIC BOOK SPECIALTY SHOP. DON'T KNOW WHERE THAT IS? CALL OUR TOLL-FREE COMIC BOOK SHOP LOCATOR SERVICE AT 1-888-COMIC BOOK AND FIND OUT! MEANWHILE, YOU KNOW WHERE TO GET UNDER OUR CLAMMY, SCALY SKIN — AT "GROSS POINTS, SCARY SUGGESTIONS AND RUDE REMARKS," c/o DC COMICS, 1700 BROADWAY, NEW YORK, NY 10019. IF YOU CAN HANDLE POSTAGE STAMPS WITH THOSE TENTACLES OF YOURS, OR BCOGROSS@aol.com IF KEYBOARD AND MOUSE WORK BETTER FOR YOU. SEE YOU IN 30 DAYS...OR WE'LL PUT A FERRET DOWN YOUR PANTS! EWWWWWW!

NEXT ISSUE: OKAY, SO MAYBE BRIAN AND TERRI WON'T ALWAYS BE STUCK IN GROSS POINT — NOT WHEN THEY HAVE A CHANCE TO TAKE A CLASS TRIP TO CHICAGO! BUT FIRST THEY'LL HAVE TO COME UP WITH THE BUS FARE (WHICH MEANS TAKING A BUNCH OF VERY STRANGE AFTER-SCHOOL JOBS). AND ALL THAT WILL BE POSSIBLE ONLY IF THEY DON'T GET TRAPPED IN THE BERNHADA TRIANGLE PUBLIC LIBRARY. TO FIND OUT WHAT THAT MEANS, JOIN US FOR "YOU CAN'T GET THERE FROM HERE" BY WRITER PAUL KUPPERSBERG AND ARTISTS JOE STATON AND ROGER LANGRIDGE. ALSO IN GP #6: THE ROLLICKING CONCLUSION TO THIS ISSUE'S PREMIERE EPISODE OF "MYSTERY MEAT," AGAIN BROUGHT TO YOU BY MATT WAYNE AND THE TEAM OF STATON AND LANGRIDGE!

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